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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:	:	Before the Examiner:
Balaram Sinharoy et al.	:	Li, Aimee J.
Serial No.: 09/548,469	:	Group Art Unit: 2183
Filed: April 13, 2000	:	
Title: USE OF SOFTWARE HINT FOR	:	IBM Corporation
BRANCH PREDICTION IN THE	:	Intellectual Property Law
ABSENCE OF HINT BIT IN THE	:	11400 Burnet Road
BRANCH INSTRUCTION	:	Austin, Texas 78758

REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Technology Center 2100

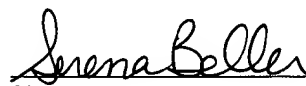
Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action having a mailing date of March 25, 2004 (Paper No. 10), having a three-month shortened statutory period for response set to expire on June 25, 2004, please reconsider the rejections of the claims in view of the following remarks:

Remarks begin on page 2 of this paper.

CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence (along with any item referred to as being enclosed herewith) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on June 9, 2004.



Signature

Serena Beller

(Printed name of person certifying)